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## **CONSIDER BRINGING CHILD IN FROM 'OUT THERE'**

The fourth annual National Adoption Day was observed recently.

But many other days can -- and should -- be adoption days.

The state has 400 children available for adoption. Tentative adoptive homes have been found for 4,184 others.

The need for adults to adopt teenagers and pre-teens is particularly acute, a judge said.

"These are not 'damaged' children. They are children who haven't had the permanence of a loving and stable home," said Mary Beth Kelly, Wayne County chief circuit court judge.

In Midland County on Tuesday, the adoptions of 10 children -- some by stepparents -- were completed. It was a day of celebration. The courtroom was decorated with colored paper hands. Teddy bears sat on a bench. There were shiny balloons. But most important, there was love and adults' commitment.

A father recalled meeting a foster child while camping.

"We were amazed that all these children were out there.," he added.

If there's room for a child in your heart and household, maybe you can be part of the solution for a deserving child.

And if you share an adoption day, the child will no longer be "out there."